AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims presently on file as follows:

Claim 1. (previously presented) An hydrophobic GRF analog of formula **A**:

X ——GRF-peptide **(A)**

wherein; the GRF peptide is a peptide of formula **B**;

A1-**A2**-Asp-Ala-Ile-Phe-Thr-**A8**-Ser-Tyr-Arg-Lys-**A13**-Leu-**A15**-Gln-Leu-**A-18**-Ala-Arg-Lys-Leu-Leu-**A24**-**A25**-Ile-**A27**-**A28**-Arg-**A30**-$\mathbf{R_0}$ **(B)**

wherein,

A1 is Tyr or His;

A2 is Val or Ala;

A8 is Asn or Ser;

A13 is Val or Ile;

A15 is Ala or Gly;

A18 is Ser or Tyr;

A24 is Gln or His;

A25 is Asp or Glu;

A27 is Met, Ile or Nle;

A28 is Ser or Asn;

A30 is a bond or any amino acid sequence of 1 up to 15 residues;

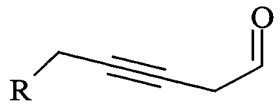
$\mathbf{R_0}$ is NH_2 or NH-(CH_2)**n**-$CONH_2$, with **n**=1 to 12 and

X is a hydrophobic tail anchored via an amide bond to the N-terminus of the peptide and said hydrophobic tail defining a backbone of 5 to 7 atoms;

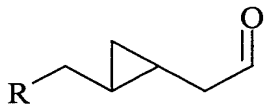
wherein said backbone can be substituted by C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{3-6} cycloalkyl, or C_{6-12} aryl and said backbone comprises at least one rigidifying moiety connected to at least two atoms of the backbone;

said moiety selected from the group consisting of triple bond, saturated or unsaturated C_{3-9} cycloalkyl, and C_{6-12} aryl.

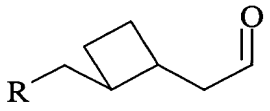
Claim 2. (currently amended) The hydrophobic GRF analog of claim 1, wherein X is selected from the group consisting of:



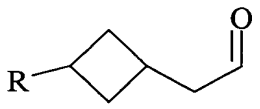
1 (R=H or CH_3 or CH_2CH_3)



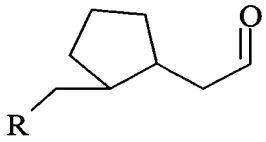
2 (R=H or CH_3 or CH_2CH_3)
cis or *trans*, both as racemic mixtures
or pure enantiomeric pairs



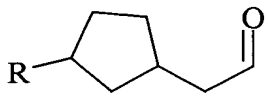
3 (R=H or CH_3 or CH_2CH_3)
cis or *trans*, both as racemic mixtures
or pure enantiomeric pairs



4 (R=H or CH_3 or CH_2CH_3)
cis or *trans*, (when R $\neq$ H)
both as racemic mixtures
or pure enantiomeric pairs



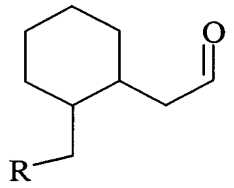
5 (R=H or CH_3 or CH_2CH_3)
cis or *trans*, both as racemic mixtures
or pure enantiomeric pairs



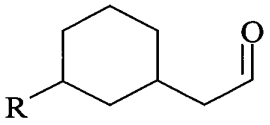
6 (R=H or CH_3 or CH_2CH_3)

cis or *trans*, (when R $\neq$ H)

both as racemic mixtures
or pure enantiomeric pairs



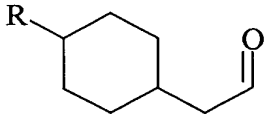
7 (R=H or CH_3 or CH_2CH_3)
cis or *trans*, both as racemic mixtures
or pure enantiomeric pairs



8 (R=H or CH_3 or CH_2CH_3)

cis or *trans*, (when R $\neq$ H)

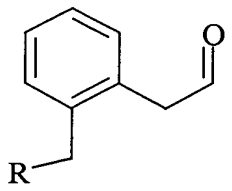
both as racemic mixtures
or pure enantiomeric pairs



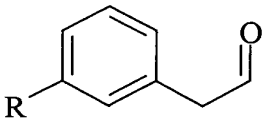
9 (R=H or CH_3 or CH_2CH_3)

cis or *trans*, (when R $\neq$ H)

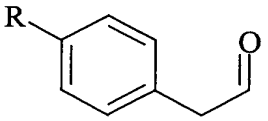
both as racemic mixtures
or pure enantiomeric pairs



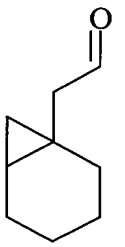
10 (R=H or CH_3 or CH_2CH_3)



11 (R=H or CH_3 or CH_2CH_3)



12 (R=H or CH_3 or CH_2CH_3)



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Claim 3. (Canceled)

Claim 4. (previously presented) A method for increasing the level of growth hormone in a patient, the method comprising administering to said patient an effective amount of a GRF analog as claimed in claim 1.

Claim 5. (previously presented) A method for the diagnosis of growth hormone deficiency in a patient, the method comprising administering to said patient an effective amount of a GRF analog as claimed in claim 1 and measuring growth hormone response.

Claim 6. (currently amended) A method for the treatment of pituitary ~~drawfism~~ dwarfism or growth retardation in a patient, the method comprising administering to said patient an effective amount of a GRF analog as claimed in claim 1.

Claim 7. (previously presented) A method for the treatment of wound or bone healing in a patient, the method comprising administering to said patient an effective amount of a GRF analog as claimed in claim 1.

Claim 8. (previously presented) A method for the treatment of osteoporosis in a patient, the method comprising administering to said patient an effective amount of a GRF analog as claimed in claim 1.

Claim 9. (previously presented) A method for improving protein anabolism in a human or an animal, the method comprising administering to said human or animal an effective amount of a GRF analog as claimed in claim 1.

Claim 10. (previously presented) A method for inducing a lipolytic effect in a human or an animal inflicted with clinical obesity, the method comprising administering to the human or animal an effective amount of a GRF analog as claimed in claim 1.

Claim 11. (previously presented) A method for the overall upgrading of somatroph function in human or animal, the method comprising administering to said patient an effective amount of a GRF analog as claimed in claim 1.

Claim 12. (new) A pharmaceutical formulation for inducing growth hormone release comprising: a GRF analog as claimed in claim 1, as an active ingredient, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, excipient, or diluent in association with said GRF analog.